Relative clauses II

SEMESTRAL UNI - 2023 II

What is a relative clause?
A relative clause is one kind of dependent clause. It has a subject and verb, but can't stand alone as a sentence. It is sometimes called an "adjective clause" because it functions like an adjective—it gives more information about a noun. A relative clause always begins with a "relative pronoun," which substitutes for a noun, a noun phrase, or a pronoun when sentences are combined.

The relative pronouns are:

Pronoun	Stands For	Uses
who	people	substitutes for subject nouns/pronouns (he, she, we, they)
whom	people	substitutes for object nouns/pronouns (him, her, us, them)
whose	people or things	substitutes for possessive nouns/pronouns (his, hers, ours, theirs)
that	people or things	can be used for either subject or object can only be used in restrictive relative clauses (see below)
which	things	can be used for either subject or object can be used in non-restrictive relative clauses can also be used in restrictive relative clauses, though some people don't like this use

whose and *whom*

We use ***whose*** as the **possessive** form of who:

*This is George, **<u>whose</u> brother went to school with me**.*

We sometimes use ***whom*** as the **object** of a verb or preposition:

*This is George, **<u>whom</u> you met at our house last year**.*
(*whom* is the object of *met*)

*This is George's brother, **<u>with whom</u> I went to schoo**l.*
(*whom* is the object of *with*)

but nowadays we normally use *who*:

*This is George, **<u>who</u> you met at our house last year**.*
*This is George's brother, **<u>who</u> I went to school with**.*

when **and** ***where***

We can use when with times and where with places to **make it clear which time or place** we are talking about:

*England won the World Cup in 1966. It was the year **when we got married**.*
*I remember my twentieth birthday. It was the day **when the tsunami happened**.*

*Do you remember the place **where we caught the train**?*
*Stratford-upon-Avon is the town **where Shakespeare was born**.*

We can **leave out *when***:

*England won the World Cup in 1966. It was the year **we got married**.*
*I remember my twentieth birthday. It was the day **the tsunami happened**.*

We often use quantifiers and numbers with relative pronouns:

all of which/whom	*most of which/whom*	*many of which/whom*
lots of which/whom	*a few of which/whom*	*none of which/whom*
one of which/whom	*two of which/whom*	*etc.*

*She has three brothers, **two of whom are in the army**.*
*I read three books last week, **one of which I really enjoyed**.*
*There were some good programmes on the radio, **none of which I listened to**.*

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